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Upcoming Events:

- Next DWT Meeting - 6th May 2017.
- The May Seminar 2017 will feature Robert O'Connor.
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May Seminar

Next month sees the DWT Annual Seminar. Robert O'Connor is the demonstrator this year. There is a registration form on Page 7. If you want to attend, complete it and hand it to a committee member.

A Journey into the Nature of Bog Oak; Finding and Working with this "strange mythical material".

Eamonn Heffernan, Bog-oak Sculptor with the Artisans of Russborough House explains the nature of bog oak.

Dublin born, cockney spoken Eamonn treated us to a fascinating introduction to the world of bog-oak. Firstly, there is the time scale! The formation of bog-oak began during the Bronze Age, ie circa 11000 BCE. Ireland, which was covered in forests, majorly oak trees, began to experience climatic change causing the trees to fall and die, and over time, form bogland. The Bog of Allen, in the midlands, would be the vastest of such terrain. Today, bog-oak is usually found about two to three feet below the surface, where it has been protected for millennia from the worst effects of exposure to air. Consequently, once it becomes open to the air, it tends to split and crack and become useless within three to four years. Eamonn passed around a piece which had been carbon-dated by the Archaeology Department of Queen's University Belfast as being between four and a half and five thousand years old!

Preparing the Material

The principle is to retard the drying process by restricting the exposure to air. So it is cleaned down to solid surfaces, buried in the ground for about a year, then lifted and placed in wet sacks in a shed for two more years. Finally it is cleaned again with a wire brush and left for a fourth year. After this time it may be considered 'cured'. It will be rock hard. Root pieces will tend to stay together- trunks will generally splinter and fall apart, though sound material may be found once the bark and outer material has been scrubbed away. Sometimes the use of superglue or "Jungle Juice" or resin may help as a stabilising agent. At this stage, many coats of teak oil or boiled linseed oil "will put life back into it." The question: "What can I do with it?" only begins to be asked now. It may be useful here to gather some telling statements made by Eamonn;

"I don't like to lose the nature of the piece"

"I try to interpret what's happening as I go along"

"You look for the 'spirit' of the piece"

"You're *reading* all the time, hoping to find something"

Mostly, bog oak is not amenable to being turned, especially large pieces. It is so brittle it behaves somewhat like glass.



Who was winning 10 years ago?

Pictures of Competition winners ten years ago this month. Recognise any of them?

Answers towards the back.



Advanced



Experienced



Beginners

Rough Shaping

This can be done after about two years while the material is still quite wet. Eamonn mostly uses the angle-grinder with Arbortech. Sometimes it is possible to use conventional carpentry tools and wood-carving gouges.



Final Finishing

This involves sanding followed by multiple (seven or eight) coats of teak- or Danish oil. Eamonn looks to achieve a good sheen, rather than a gloss finish. The finish ought to emerge 'from' the piece rather than be 'imposed' upon it. At this point it is best brought into the house for a month or two until it is finished "doing what it has to do".

In a brief reference to other bog woods, Eamonn referred to bog-yew and bog-pine. The latter is too soft to take a good finish.

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Presenting a Piece

The base is integral to the total effect. Eamonn prefers Wicklow granite or slate (which just might have come from a demolished roof in Russborough!) He brought several stunning pieces with him:

1. A 'silhouette' of a couple standing together, reminiscent of existing street sculptures of 'famine' figures.
2. A 'Sceilig' type standing stone emblazoned with Ogham script in gold, meaning Gra (Love) on a dark slate base.
3. A magnificent two foot salmon in bog-yew.
4. A simple double ogee form in beech wood, representing a heron with head aloft.

Brown to Black?

People tend to prefer bog-oak to be pitch black for 'character'. The odd patch of brown may be blackened with eboniser or acrylic black finish or indeed some 000 steel wool and vinegar (ready for use once the steel wool has dissolved).

It always moves the spirit when you are in the presence of knowledge, expertise and powerful passion. I always thought of bog-oak as just another type of wood that you could stick up in the lathe and turn. After being with Eamonn for an hour and a half, I began to feel something like his reverence for a material which, if only because of its antiquity, deserves to be treated as somehow... sacred.

Thank you Eamonn for all of that.

Pacelli O'Rourke



Demonstrators 2017

Saturday	Wednesday
April - Christy Glynn	April - Seamus Carter
May - Robert O'Connor	May - Pat Walsh(e)
June - Roger Bennett (tbc)	June - Willie Reville
July - Kieran Reynolds	July - Paul Murtagh
August - Michael Fay	August - Sean McMurrow
September - John Doran	September - Noel White
October - Pat Walsh	October - Malcolm Hill
November - AGM	November - John Sheeran
December - Joe O'Neill	December - Joe O'Neill

March's Wednesday Gallery..



Riddle: What kind of room has no doors or windows?

A Mushroom.

Tree Riddle: An apple tree has apples on it. A storm comes through and there are no longer apples on the tree. But there aren't apples on the ground either. How can this be so?

ANS:- The tree had two apples, so when one fell in the storm the tree and ground both had just one apple. So neither had apples, just an apple.

Woodturning in Castillon, Spain.

As our roving Spanish reporter, I recently spent a pleasant weekend at a woodturning seminar in the charming Spanish village of Vilafames in the Province of Castillon. I witnessed the most exquisitely delicate woodturning of Jean Francois Escoulen, the founder of the Escoulen Woodturning School in S.E.France, who made his signature "Trembler" (see picture).



Also a Spanish woodturner, Javier Palacios from Asturias, showed us how to electrocute wood in order to give an unusual pattern on the surface of it.



There were also plenty of pieces on display by Spanish woodturners. The piece shown, by Pedro LLoport had an interesting drunken chessboard effect. John Killoran - where did he go wrong!

More in the May issue of the Newsletter.

Mike Sims.



Hope you didn't get caught!



Competitions Pieces 2017

APR - 250 x 60 x 60

AUG - Clock

DEC - Christmas Item

MAY - Open

SEP - A Hollow Form

JUN - Lam/Segmented

OCT - Three-legged Stool

JUL - Fruit

NOV - AGM

Who were the winners 10 years ago - Apr 2007



Adv - Seamus O'Reilly



Exp - Barry Dunne



Beg - Colm McIntyre

March Competition Entrants



Artistic - Seam O'Reilly



Experienced - John Duff



Beginners - Colm Murphy



Advanced - Tony Hartney

Trade Stands at the Saturday Meetings for 2016/17.

Jan	The Wood Shed	Aug	The Hut
Feb	The Carpentry Store	Sept	The Carpentry Store
Mar	The Wood Shed	Oct	The Carpentry Store
Apr	The Carpentry Store	Nov	The Wood Shed
May	The Wood Shed	Dec	The Hut
June	The Hut	Jan 18	The Wood Shed
Jul	The Hut		

Current Competition Positions



<u>Advanced</u>													
NAME	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	September	October	Nov	TOTAL
Tony Hartney	15	13	11	15									54
Martin Boyle	13												13
Sean Ryan	11	7	5	6									29
Pecelli O'Rourke	9		5										14
Pat Walsh Enniskerry		9	5	9									23
Sean Earls			5										5
Adrian Finely		6	9	7									22
Jonathan Widgam		5											5
Seamus O'Reilly		5	5										10
Frank Maguire	7		5										12
David Sweeney		5	7	11									23
Bob Finley			13										13
Paul Murtagh			5										5
James Gallagher			5										5
Joe O'Neill				5									5
Michael Fay		15	15	13									43
Cecil Barron		11	6										17
<u>Experienced.</u>													
NAME	dec	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	November	TOTAL
John Duff	15	15	13	15									58
Michael Jordan	13												13
John Sheeran		13											13
Dicey Reilly		11											11
Alan Smyth			15										15
Kevin McCormack			11										11
<u>Beginners</u>													
NAME	dec	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	November	TOTAL
Colm Murphy	15	15	15	15									60
Michael Colclough			13										13
Renee Kennedy			11	9									20
Phillips Gaynor				6									6
Anthony Carolan			7	11								i	
Robert Dowdall		13											13
Tommy Hartnett		11	9	13									33
<u>Artistic</u>													
NAME	dec	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	November	TOTAL
Cecil Barron	15	15	13	9									52
Paul Murtagh	13		15										28
Seamus O'Reilly			11	15									26
Michael Colclough			9										9
Tony Hartney			7	13									20
Ruth Wallace			6										6
Anthony Carolan			5										5
Renee Kennedy			5										5
Adrian Finely				11									11

No More Muddy Boots!

A Report by Peter Mulvaney. Pictures by Cecil Barron and Mark Daley.



What a wonderful day Saturday the 25th of April turned out to be, The long planned pathway from our storage container through the grass got underway. It was a well planned operation; the equipment arrived at 8.45 a.m. consisting of a mini-JCB, a mini dumper, whackers, and a powered wheel barrow, and lots of shovels and rakes. The catering on the day was excellent. Coffee was set up in the hall by our Chairman Joe, and Cecil arrived with a load of scones. The work proceeded without a hitch, 9 tons of hard core and 5 tons of Ballylusk dust was on site and this was transferred by shovel in wheel barrows to spread and then raked level and "whacked" compact ready for the Ballylusk dust which was used for the topcoat this in turn to be whacked to leave the finished surface. Ruth prepared a load of various sandwiches for the lunch break, I had to leave at 2 o'clock so I don't know when the work finished. It was a brilliant day of good humour, hard work and co-operation with a great result.

As Robbie Burns said, "The best laid plans of mice and men gang oft awry", but not this day.



2017 MAY Seminar Registration Form

The following application should be detached from the Newsletter and handed to the Treasurer, Vincent Whelan.

Application to attend the Dublin Woodturners Annual Seminar - May 1st 2017

To include on May 1st, demonstrations by the Irish woodturner Robert O'Connor. Robert's work can be seen at <http://www.thewoodturningstudio.ie/>

Cost €50.

Name _____

Tel No. _____

Signature _____